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Identical letters dated 20 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the message of His Eminence Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, delivered to the International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (see annex). In his message, the Supreme Leader reiterated the principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the prohibition of the use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, and stated: "We consider the use of such weapons as *haram* (religiously forbidden) and believe that it is everyone's duty to make efforts to secure humanity against this great disaster".

The International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, held in Tehran on 17 and 18 April 2010, was attended by high-level officials and prominent experts from 60 countries as well as representatives of relevant international and regional organizations. The purpose of the Tehran Conference was to exchange views on, and find practical ways to advance, the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Conference, among other things, called for the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction and offered some proposals to achieve the lofty goal of a world free from weapons of mass destruction.

The Tehran Conference is yet another firm indication of the seriousness of Iran's stance with regard to the urgency of international actions in the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and nuclear arms.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 96, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

10-32600 (E) 280410 290410

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Annex to the identical letters dated 20 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Message from His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament

Tehran, 17 and 18 April 2010

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

I should like to welcome the honourable guests who have gathered here. It is a pleasure for the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament today. I hope that you will make use of this opportunity so that all of humanity may benefit from the enduring and valuable conclusions which you will reach through discussion and consultation.

The study of atoms and nuclear sciences are among humanity's greatest achievements. They can and should be used to serve the well-being of nations throughout the world and the growth and development of all human societies. The applications of nuclear sciences cover a wide range of medical, energy and industrial needs, each of which has considerable importance. For this reason, it can be said that nuclear technology has gained a prominent position in economic life. As industrial, medical and energy needs increase, its importance will continue to grow, and efforts to obtain and use nuclear energy will increase accordingly. Just like other nations of the world, the nations of the Middle East are thirsty for peace, security, and progress, and have the right to secure their economic position and improve the situation of future generations through the use of such technology. One of the probable goals behind the sowing of doubts about the peaceful nuclear programmes of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to prevent the nations of the region from giving serious attention to that natural and valuable right.

The interesting point is that the only nuclear criminal in the world currently falsely claims to be combating the proliferation of nuclear weapons. However, it certainly has not taken any serious measures in this regard, and will never do so. If America's claims that it is combating the proliferation of nuclear weapons were true, would the Zionist regime be able to turn the occupied Palestinian lands into a vast arsenal of nuclear weapons, while refusing to respect the relevant international regulations, especially the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons?

Unfortunately, although the word "atom" is associated with the progress of human knowledge, it is equally associated with the most appalling event in history, and the greatest genocide and misuse of humanity's scientific achievements. Although, many countries have sought to manufacture and stockpile nuclear weapons — which in itself can be viewed as a prelude to the commission of crimes and has seriously jeopardized global peace — only one Government has thus far committed a nuclear crime. Only the Government of the United States of America attacked the oppressed people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atomic bombs, in an unequal and inhumane war.

The detonation of the first nuclear weapons by the United States Government in Hiroshima and Nagasaki created a human disaster of unprecedented proportions, and exposed human security to a great threat. Since that time, the global community has reached a unanimous agreement that such weapons must be completely eliminated. The use of nuclear weapons has resulted not only in large-scale killings and destruction, but also in the indiscriminate massacre of soldiers and civilians, young and old, men and women. Its inhuman effects have transcended political and geographical borders, even inflicting irreparable harm on future generations. The use or even the threat of use of such weapons is therefore a serious violation of the most basic humanitarian principles, and clearly constitutes a war crime.

From a military and security perspective, after certain powers obtained this inhuman weapon, there remained no doubt that victory in a nuclear war would be impossible, and that to engage in such a war would be an irrational and inhuman act. However, despite these obvious ethical, rational, human, and even military realities, the strong and repeated call by the global community for the elimination of such weapons has been ignored by a small number of Governments, which have based their illusory security on global insecurity.

The insistence of these Governments on possessing, accumulating and developing the destructive power of such weapons, which have never served any purpose other than to intimidate, terrorize and create a false sense of security based on mutually assured destruction, has perpetuated the world's nuclear nightmare. Innumerable human and economic resources have been expended in this irrational competition to give the superpowers the imaginary capability to annihilate their rivals, along with the other inhabitants of the planet including themselves, more than ten thousand times over. It is for this reason that the strategy has been known as mutually assured destruction or MAD.

In recent years, a number of Governments that possess nuclear weapons have even gone beyond mutually assured destruction in their dealings with other nuclear powers: in their nuclear policies, they insist on maintaining the nuclear option even if they are faced with conventional threats from countries that violate the Non-Proliferation Treaty. At the same time, the greatest violators of the Treaty are the powers that have reneged on their commitment to nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty. These powers have even surpassed other countries in promoting the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons around the world. By providing the Zionist regime with nuclear weapons and supporting its policies, these powers are contributing directly and actively to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, thereby contravening their commitments under Article I of the Treaty. These countries, headed by the bullying and aggressive United States regime, pose a serious threat to the Middle East region and the world.

It is incumbent upon for the International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament to investigate the threats posed by the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons in the world and to propose realistic solutions to counter this threat to humanity. Such action would make it possible to take effective steps towards safeguarding peace and stability.

We believe that, besides nuclear weapons, other types of weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical and biological weapons, also pose a serious threat to humanity. The Iranian nation, which is itself a victim of chemical weapons, feels more acutely than any other nation the danger caused by the production and

stockpiling of such weapons, and is prepared to do everything in its power to counter such threats.

We consider the use of such weapons as *haram* (religiously forbidden) and believe that it is everyone's duty to make efforts to secure humanity against this great disaster.

Sayyid Ali **Khamenei**

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